

## **Fugitive wanted in Behrman case caught in Mexico**

Kerry Silvers thought to have information about death of IU student  
by Laura Lane, Herald-Times Staff Writer

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**Silvers**

After 32 months on the run, a fugitive facing three decades in prison and suspected of having information about the unsolved death of Bloomington resident Jill Behrman was apprehended late Wednesday in Mexico.

"The chase is finally over," U.S. Marshal James Kennedy said in a written statement. "I am hopeful our efforts will bring some level of closure to this part of the comprehensive, more-than-four-year criminal investigation involving the disappearance and tragic death of a young woman from my hometown."

Kerry Silvers, 30, was returned to Indiana Thursday afternoon to face charges of attempted murder, attempted kidnapping, auto theft and jail escape in connection with his 2002 escape from the Orange County Jail in Paoli. He also is charged on the federal level with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

He was apprehended in Martinez de la Torre, a town of 37,000 in the Veracruz province, where corn, sugar cane and coffee grow. Deputy U.S. Marshal Jason Wojdylo would not discuss details of Silvers' arrest.

Indiana State Police have long wanted to question Silvers about knowledge he might have regarding Behrman's death. Silvers spent time in jail with Ellettsville resident Uriah Clouse, a suspect in Behrman's disappearance.

Silvers and two others escaped from the Orange County Jail in April 2002. His companions were captured, but Silvers had been on the loose 972 days before U.S. marshals arrested him late Wednesday.

By Thursday afternoon, he was back in Indiana.

On the day they broke out of the Orange County Jail, the trio reportedly used a fake gun made from toilet paper and a toothbrush sharpened into a weapon to overpower jailers.

Silvers is accused of taking a 9 mm handgun from dispatcher Doug Shephard and trying to shoot him with it. A double safety on the weapon kept Silvers from firing, according to Orange County Sheriff Doyle Cornwell, who expects Silvers to be returned to his jail to await trial on the charges pending against him in Orange County.

"We know what he is capable of and we will be extremely careful," Cornwell said. "We do not intend to have a repeat of what we went through, under any circumstances. It was a very frightening experience. My dispatcher thought he was going to be killed. Two of my employees abused by him that night are still

here.

"We are glad he is off the streets — I was worried about someone else getting hurt by this individual."

When he escaped from the Orange County Jail, Silvers had been sentenced to 61 years for burglary, armed robbery, carjacking and escape, that time from the Lawrence County Jail.

He lived in Bloomington before his incarceration, and had numerous prior convictions.

"He will be in isolation in my in my facility, for safety reasons," Cornwell said. "He was very violent when he broke out of here, enough that we know to handle this individual real careful."

After breaking out of the jail, Cornwell said, Silvers and the others approached a couple sitting on their front porch. "He tried to kidnap the first people he came across; he was going to take their car and take them hostage. So the man faked a heart attack and went off the side of the porch."

The FOX television show "America's Most Wanted" featured segments about Silvers on Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, resulting in phone calls and tips that may have led the U.S. Marshals Service to Mexico.

"They knew he was in that area for some time," Cornwell said. "They had to get cooperation from Mexican authorities to make the arrest."

Marilyn Behrman, Jill's mother, said Indiana State Police Detective Rick Lang, a U.S. marshal and a crew from "America's Most Wanted" came to her house Thursday to let the family know Silvers had been apprehended.

She and her husband, Eric, will attend a news conference in Indianapolis this morning, she said, to learn more about Silvers' arrest. They are anxious to find out what he knows about their daughter's death.

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